

## Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02

OPIC-03 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 /101 W

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R 181830Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1538

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMCONSUL DURBAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR-XJ, GW, SL

SUBJECT: GENSCHER'S AFRICAN VISIT

REF: BONN A-40, ACCRA 4306, BONN 10596, BONN 10795

SUMMARY: REPAYING THE VISITS OF THE PRESIDENTS OF  
MALAWI AND ZAMBIA TO THE FRG PROVIDED FOREIGN MINISTER  
GENSCHER WITH AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO PURSUE HIS  
COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL INTERESTS IN  
BLACK AFRICA. HIS AFRICAN HOSTS ASKED THE GERMANS TO  
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USE THEIR INFLUENCE TO BRING ABOUT SOCIAL AND POLITI-

CAL CHANGE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. END SUMMARY.

1. FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL WHO ACCOMPANIED FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER TO LIBERIA, GHANA, ZAMBIA AND MALAWI, BRIEFED EMBASSY OFFICER ON THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT. SINCE GENSCHER WAS A BIT RELUCTANT TO ACCEPT THE URGINGS OF FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIALS TO GO TO AFRICA, THE FOREIGN OFFICE WAS CONCERNED AS TO HOW THE TRIP WOULD TURN OUT. BUT THEY THOUGHT IT WENT VERY WELL.

2. THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE VISIT,

ACCORDING TO OUR FOREIGN OFFICE SOURCE, WAS TO RETURN A VISIT TO THE FRG BY THE PRESIDENTS OF MALAWI AND ZAMBIA. HOWEVER, SINCE IT WOULD HAVE BEEN IMPOLITIC FOR THE FOREIGN MINISTER TO VISIT THE TWO BLACK AFRICAN COUNTRIES WHICH ARE MOST ACCOMMODATING TOWARDS SOUTH AFRICA, TWO COUNTRIES IN WHICH THE FRG IS ESPECIALLY INVOLVED, LIBERIA AND GHANA, WERE ADDED TO THE ITINERARY. THE OFFICIAL SAID THAT THE VISIT, WHICH COINCIDES WITH A VISIT BY STAATSMINISTER WISCHNEWSKI TO SEVEN OPEC AND LDC COUNTRIES, INCLUDING ALGERIA AND THE CONGO, DOES NOT SIGNAL A NEW GERMAN INITIATIVE TOWARD BLACK AFRICA AS HAS BEEN REPORTED BY SEVERAL FRG NEWSPAPERS.

3. THE JOURNEY BEGAN IN LIBERIA, THE BIGGEST RECIPIENT OF GERMAN AID PER CAPITA AMONG THE FOUR COUNTRIES VISITED, WHERE THERE IS EXTENSIVE GERMAN PRIVATE INVESTMENT AND WHERE THE GERMANS WERE VERY IMPRESSED WITH FOREIGN MINISTER DENNIS AND PRESIDENT TOLBERT. FROM LIBERIA THE PARTY TRAVELLED TO GHANA, THE LARGEST RECIPIENT OF GERMAN AID AMONG THE FOUR, WHERE THE GERMANS AGREED TO EXTEND DM 104 MILLION IN CAPITAL AID AND DM 45 MILLION IN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

4. THE GERMANS WERE ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN ECONOMIC ISSUES AND WERE PLEASED WHEN THEIR HOSTS DECLARED THEIR PREFERENCE FOR COOPERATION INSTEAD OF CONFRONTATION BETWEEN INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES AND LESSER DEVELOPED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NATIONS IN THE SEARCH FOR A RAW MATERIALS POLICY. THEY ALSO OPPOSED "INDEXATION", PREFERRING INSTEAD AN AGREEMENT ALONG THE LINES OF THE LOME CONVENTION. THE GERMANS REQUESTED THEIR AFRICAN HOSTS TO TAKE THE SAME POSITION IN INTERNATIONAL FORA INSTEAD OF BLOCK-VOTING FOR "IMPRACTICAL AND SILLY RESOLUTIONS". HOWEVER, OUR SOURCE WAS NOT HOPEFUL THAT THE GERMAN REQUEST WOULD BE HONORED (OUR SOURCE DID NOT DISCUSS NEWS-

PAPER REPORTS THAT THE FRG HAD CONCLUDED A DM 46 MILL. AGREEMENT WITH THE GOVERNMENTS OF MALI, MAURETANIA AND SENEGAL TO DEVELOP THE SENEGAL BASIN, AND THAT STAATSMINISTER WISCHNEWSKI HAD SIGNED AN AGREEMENT PROVIDING DM 70 MILLION TO ZAIRE.)

5. FRG POLICY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA WAS ALSO A MAJOR ISSUE DURING THE VISIT. IN ZAMBIA, PRESIDENT KAUNDA IMPORED THE GERMANS TO ALIGN THEMSELVES AT AN EARLY DATE ON THE SIDE OF THE BLACK AFRICANS IN ORDER TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF COMMUNISM IN AFRICA, TO SUPPORT CHRISTIANITY AND TO BE ON THE WINNING SIDE WHEN BLACK

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AFRICANS FINALLY RID THEMSELVES OF WHITE RULE. KAUNDA SAID THAT SINCE THE GERMANS ARE ALREADY DEEPLY INVOLVED IN SOUTHERN AFRICA ECONOMICALLY, THEY SHOULD USE THEIR INFLUENCE TO BRING ABOUT SOCIAL AND POLITICAL CHANGE. OUR SOURCE FOUND IT ESPECIALLY MEANINGFUL THAT BLACK AFRICANS ARE NOW MAKING A DISTINCTION BETWEEN COLONIALISM AND RACISM IN THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA. SPECIFICALLY, THEY NOW REFER TO CONDITIONS IN THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA AS BEING RACIST INSTEAD OF

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COLONIAL. ALL AFRICAN LEADERS WITH WHOM GENSCHER SPOKE, AGREED THAT CONDITIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA MUST BE CHANGED PEACEFULLY, WITH FORCE AS THE VERY LAST RESORT.

6. THE FUTURE OF THE GERMAN CONSULATE IN WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA REMAINS OPEN. IMPRESSED BY AFRICAN ARGUMENTS THAT IT SHOULD BE CLOSED, GENSCHER DIRECTED THE FOREIGN MINISTRY TO STUDY THE ISSUE AND TO FIND OUT WHICH COUNTRIES STILL HAVE CONSULATES IN WINDHOEK. HOWEVER, FRG DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS MAY PLAY A MAJOR ROLE IN THE FUTURE OF THE CONSULATE. THERE ARE 5000 GERMAN NATIONALS IN NAMIBIA PLUS MANY OTHERS OF GERMAN ORIGIN. THEREFORE, CLOSING THE CONSULATE WOULD PROBABLY BE UNPOPULAR IN THE FRG WHERE SOME WOULD ACCUSE THE FOREIGN MINISTRY OF BOWING TO AFRICAN BLACKMAIL.

7. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH OUR SOURCE PLAYED DOWN NEWSPAPER REPORTS THAT GENSCHER'S VISIT HERALDS A NEW FRG INITIATIVE TOWARD BLACK AFRICA AND CLAIMED THAT THE JUXAPOSITION OF THE GENSCHER AND WISCHNEWSKI VISITS WAS COINCIDENTAL, BOTH VISITS INDICATE THE FRG'S KEEN INTEREST IN IMPROVING NORTH/SOUTH RELATIONS IN GENERAL AND GROWING SENSITIVITY IN PARTICULAR TO AFRICAN INTENTIONS TO PURSUE THEIR ECONOMIC INTERESTS IN THE INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ARENA.

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